

WASHING^{TON} Post
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CAS^{tro}, Fidel
ORG¹ MAFIA
CIA 4.61 ASSASSINAT^{ION}

Mafia Threatened to Disclose Plot By CIA to Kill Castro, Aide Says

Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy was warned that prosecution of two organized crime figures could result in the disclosure of a plot of the Central Intelligence Agency to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, a former high agency official says.

The former official also said that he did not know what effect the information had on the Justice Department's subsequent efforts to prosecute the

two men.

The official, who declined use of his name, said he told Kennedy about the assassination plot in 1962 after the CIA learned that Sam Giancana and John Roselli, the two Mafia figures involved in the plot, were under investigation by Kennedy's Justice Department. The agency was concerned that Giancana or Roselli might threaten to disclose the plot in an effort to avoid prosecution, the official said.

"We gave Kennedy the facts and said, 'Here's the problem,'" the official said: "Mr. Kennedy said, 'The next time you deal with the Mafia come to me first,' but he didn't voice any other objection," the official added.

The department dropped its efforts to prosecute Giancana after the Chicago racketeers chief had spent a year in jail for refusing to answer questions before a federal grand jury. Roselli was convicted of a card-fixing scheme and subsequently revealed his CIA connection in an unsuccessful effort to gain a reduced sentence.

The former official said that the 1961 plot involved contacts between Giancana and Roselli and two former CIA officials, William K. Harvey and Sheffield Edwards. Both Harvey, currently an attorney in Indianapolis, Ind., and Edwards, now retired and living in suburban Maryland, refused to comment.

GIANCANA, Sam
Roselli, John